

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action dated July 15, 2005 and preliminary to examination according to the enclosed Request for Continued Examination, Applicant has amended claims 1, 17 and 37, and has canceled claims 10, 25, 31-36 and 43. Claims 1-9, 11-24, 26-30, 37-42 and 44-45 are pending in the case. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of the application in view of the amendments.

In paragraph 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the specification was objected to due to certain informalities.

In paragraph 3 on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 31, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Notredame et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,390).

In paragraph 5 on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 2 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Notredame in view of Maertens (U.S. Patent No. 6,526,214). In paragraph 6 on page 6 of the Office Action, claims 3, 19, 35 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Notredame in view of Maertens further in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,164). In paragraph 7 on page 7 of the Office Action, claims 9 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Notredame in view of Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,694). In paragraph 8 on page 9 of the Office Action, claims 12, 13, 15, 16, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 44, and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Notredame in view of Houle (U.S. Patent No. 5,710,719). In paragraph 9 on page 10 of the Office Action, claims 14, 28, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Notredame in view of Houle further in view of Rumph et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,390).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections, but in the interest of expediting prosecution have amended the claims to overcome the rejection. Applicant's claims recite at least "aligning each of the display items relative to n pixel boundaries within the target area."

In contrast, Notredame does not align display items relative to n pixel boundaries as shown in Fig. 8 of Applicant's specification. Rather, Notredame aligns each display item relative to each other. For example, the Office Action refers to column 30 as teach this limitation. However, rather than disclosing that each of the display items are aligned relative to n pixel boundaries within the target area, Notredame discloses that "when the blocks of the underneath E page element 201 do not align with those of the on top D page element 203, . . . the E and D blocks of 201 and 203 are aligned prior to merging. The blocks of D page element 203 are aligned to the grid defined by the blocks of E page element 201 by performing a translation of D page element 203 over the smallest possible distance to align the D blocks of element 203."

Thus, according to Notredame, the E and D blocks are aligned relative to each other rather than aligning the display elements relative to an nth pixel boundary.

Accordingly, the Office Action is incorrect and Notredame fails to disclose, teach or suggest Applicant's "aligning each of the display items relative to n pixel boundaries within the target area."

Maertens, Suzuki, Takahashi, Houle, and Rumph, alone or in combination fails to remedy the deficiencies of Notredame. Maertens merely discloses a method and apparatus for decoding and displaying a DVD sub-picture. Suzuki et al. merely disclose converting a compressed JETSEND image into a compressed PCL raster image.

Takahashi et al. merely teach an image signal padding method and coding and decoding apparatus. Houle merely teaches compressing image data into a compressed form and for decompressing the compressed form. Rumph et al. merely teach a method for converting a page image defined using a PDL into print data and printer control commands. The above-mentioned references however, do not mention Applicant's "defining target items having a target area," or Applicant's "merging the display items in the target area according to item priority to produce the target item, the target item representative of the merged plurality of display items."

Because the Office Action fails to cite a reference or references that teach, disclose, or suggest all of the elements of at least the independent claims, Applicant submits that the rejections are improper and request they be withdrawn.

10, 25, 31-36 and 43

Dependent claims 2-9, 11-16, 18-24, 26-30, 38—42 and 44-45 are also patentable over the references, because they incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claims 1, 17, and 37. Further, dependent claims 2-9, 11-16, 18-24, 26-30, 38—42 and 44-45 recite additional novel elements and limitations. Applicant reserves the right to argue independently the patentability of these additional novel aspects. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-9, 11-16, 18-24, 26-30, 38—42 and 44-45 are patentable over the cited patent.

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

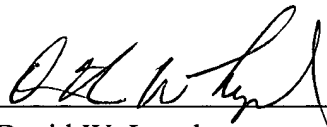
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If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicant, David W. Lynch, at 423-757-0264.

Respectfully

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